

ESMART POLICY

*The Currajong School takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures, and practices meet all **Child Safe Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 1359 (2022)***

RATIONALE

The Currajong School recognises the importance of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in preparing students for the world around them and believes ICT is an integral part of the curriculum. We want our students to be confident and safe using this technology. Our school is a recognised eSmart school and promote cyber safety in the community. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviours is essential and is best taught in partnership with parents/guardians. We request that parents/carers work with us and encourage this behaviour at home.

The aim of the policy is to:

- Establish an eSmart culture which in keeping with the values of the school and the expectations outlined in our schools' following policies; *Mobile Phone Policy, Staff ICT User Agreement Policy, Student ICT User Agreement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, Digital Technologies Policy, and the Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy*, which includes the actions and consequences for inappropriate behaviour.
- Educate The Currajong School students to be smart, safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technologies.
- Recognise that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviour is essential in the lives of students and is best taught in partnership between home and school.

IMPLEMENTATION

- All students will undertake Cybersafe lessons and will be required, with their parents, to sign The Currajong School's Student User Agreements before they are permitted to use ICT equipment or be allowed to go online.

- The Currajong School staff are trained in the philosophies of the eSmart program and are provided with the information necessary for Cybersafety education.
- The school community will be provided with information on a regular basis.
- Safe and responsible online behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home. Parents can view online safety programs at www.esafety.gov.au
- The Currajong School staff will raise student awareness of issues such as online privacy and intellectual property including copyright, and that some online activities are illegal and will be reported to the police.
- All incidents of cyberbullying or infringements to the User Agreements must be referred to the classroom teacher and to the Principal. Incidents will be investigated and recorded in a register maintained at school. The school *Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Inclusion Policy* will determine action taken for breaches of this agreement. Any student who does not follow the rules to the User Agreement will lose their ICT privileges for a length of time as deemed appropriate by the Principal and classroom teacher.
- Parents will be notified and expected to meet with school staff if students are involved in any incidents of cyberbullying.
- The Currajong School will respond to issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students.
- Students are advised to report an incident to their teacher immediately if:
 - They have experienced an incident of cyberbullying.
 - They feel the wellbeing of other students at the school is being threatened.
 - They come across sites which are not suitable for our school.
 - Someone writes something they don't like, makes them or their friends feel uncomfortable or asks them to provide private information.
 - They accidentally do something which is against the rules and responsibilities they have agreed to.
- The *eSmart Policy* also applies during school excursions and extra - curricular activities.
- The *eSmart Policy* applies to remote learning (including Google Classrooms, Zoom and the Seesaw platform).

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as per our three-year review cycle or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

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| Approval date: | Approved by: | Next review: |
| April 2024 | Principal | April 2027 |



The Currajong School acknowledges the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to the Elders past, present and emerging.